

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00599 300945Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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O P 300733Z MAY 78

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2440

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0599

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: SHABAN DEVELOPMENTS : MAY 30,1978

1. MILITARY ACTIVITIES: ACTIVE FRENCH AND BELGIAN MILI
OPERATIONS IN KOLWEZI AREA CAME TO AND END OVER THE WEEKEND
THE FRENCH LEFT A GARRISON OF 150 LEGGIONNAIRES TO PROTECT
KOLWEZI AND A SMALL CONTINGENT AT THE LUALUBA BRIDGE
(1046S/2544E) BUT OTHERWISE MOVED THEIR HEADQUARTERS AND
600 REMAING TROOPS IN LUBUMBASHI. THE BELGIANS ALSO
PUT THEIR SOUTH SHABA HEADQUARTERS IN LUBUMBASHI, BUT HAVE
STATIONED THEIR TROOPS IN THE TOWNS OF FUNGARUME, KAMBOVE
LIKASI, AND KIPUSHI WHERE THERE ARE LARGE EXPATRIATES
COMMUNITIES. BELGIAN AND FRENCH OFFICIALS AT GECAMINES BROUGHT
TOGETHER THE LEADERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE MILITARY UNITS
ON MAY 28 IN AN EFFORT TO ATTEMPT BETTER FUTURE COORDIN
ATIONS. ONLY KNOWN MILITARY CASUALTY OVER THE WEEKEND WAS
A LEGIONNAIRE WHO WAS KILLED IN A FIGHT WITH ANOTHER
LEGIONNAIRE OVER A LOCAL WOMAN. NO CONFIRMATION AS YET
ON ARRIVAL OF ANY MOROCCAN TROOPS IN KOLWEZI. FAZ
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PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00599 300945Z

PARATROOPERS AND KAMANYOLA UNITS REMAIN IN KOLWEZI.
COLONEL GRAZ THE COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH UNITS SAID
THAT ZAIRIAN TROOPS FROM THE MILITARY SCHOOL AT KANANGA
WOULD SOON CONDUCT AN OPERATION AGAINST MUTSHATSHA,
THE FIRST PROBE AGAINST THE ALLED FNLC PRESENCE IN
THAT TOWN SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS OCCUPATION
ON MAY 13.

2. KOLWEZI: RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE STEINEMAN SAID ON MAY 27 THAT HIS TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS HAD BURIED 400 CORPSES IN KOLWEZI, OF WHOM 89 WERE EUROPEANS. COL GRAZ SAID THAT RED CROSS SOURCES ON THE SAME DAY HAD TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE 131 EUROPEAN DEATHS 283 DEAD AFRICANSOLIDERS FROM EITHER SIDE AND 151 DEAD AFRICAN CIVILIANS. THE RED CROSS BEGAN DISTRIBUTING FOOD TO NEEDY KOLWEZI RESIDENTS ON MAY 27.

3. LOOTING OF THE HOUSES BELOINGING TO KOLWEZI EX-RESIDENTS BY THE ZAIRIAN MILITARY CONTINUED UNABATED OVER THE WEEKEND. VISITORS OBSERVED MILITARY TRUCKS ALONG THE ROAD AND PLANES TAKING OFF FROMTHE AIRPORT LOADED WITH REFRIGERATORS,FREEZERS, VIDEO-CASSETTE MACHINES, RADIOS, AND OTHER VALUABLES. ONE RESIDENT WHO LEFT HIS HOUSE INTACT ON MAY 30 RETURNED AT THE END OF THE WEEK TO FIND IT EMPTIED OF ALL HIS POSSESSION. GREEK MERCHANTS IN LUUMBASHI HAVE REPORTED THAT THE FIRST STOLEN GOODS ARE NOW ARRIVING AT THEIR STORES. THE ASKING PRICE FOR A HIGH QUALITY TRAN-OCEANIC RADIO IS 250 ZAIRES, A BARGAIN AT SHABA'S PRICES

4. A GECAMINES TEAM VISITED KOLWEZI ON MAY 29 TO FURTHER ASSESS DAMAGE TO ITS INSTALLATIONS. THE LEADER OF THE TEAM REPORRTED THAT FLOODING HAS BEEN STOPPED AT
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PAGE 03 LUBUMB 00599 300945Z

THE MINES BEFORE ITS REACHED A CRITICAL LEVEL AND THERE WAS VERY LITTLE DAMAGE EITHER AT THE KAMATO CONCENTRATOR OR THE LUILU FACTORY WHICH WERE GECAMINES TWO MOST MODERN INSTALLATIONS.THEY ALSO DISCOVERED A STOCK OF 20 MILLION MT OF COPPER CONCENTRATES WHICH THEY WILL BEGIN MOVING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO THE FACTORIES IN LUBUMBASHI AND LIKASI WHICH HAD RECENTLYBEGUN OPERATING AT ONLY 80 PC TO 40PC RESPECTIVELY OF CAPACITY BECAUSE OF ORE SHORTAGES.

5. OTHER SHABAN TOWNS. THE PRESECENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS IN ALL OF SHABA'S SOUTHERN MINING TOWNS HAS PROVIDED A LIMITED DEGREE OF SECURITY ASSURANCES. MANY EXPATRIATES REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE FOREIGN TROOPS HAS PROVIDED A LIMITED DEGREE OF SECURITY ASSURANCES. MANY EXPATRIATES REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE FOREIGN TROOPS WILL BE LEAVING IN A MATTER OF DAYS OPENING THE TOWNS TO A WIDELY ANTICIPATED SECOND KOLWEZI-TYPE ATTACK. MILITARY GOVERNOR GENERAL SINGA PRO VIDED ASSURANCES ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON THAT TRAVEL BETWEEN SHABAN COPPERBELT TOWNS COULD PROCEED UNRESTRICTED DURING DAY LIGHT HOURS, BUT AS OF MAY 29 THERE STILL

SEEMED TO BE SOLDIERS WHO HAD NOT GOTTEN THE WORD.
HE ALSO SAID THAT DEPARTURES FOR NORMAL CACATION WOULD
BE PERMITTED. AS A RESULT ALL PLANES, INCLUDING SOME
WHICH HAD BROUGHT SUPPLIES TO FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS
LEFT FULL OF NERVOUS DEPENDENTS. GECAMINES AND OTHER
BIG COMPANIES SEEM TO HAVE ADOPTED POLICIES PERMITTING
THE DEPARTURE OF ANY WIVES AND CHILDREN WHO REQUEST
TO LEAVE.

6. ZAMBIAN BORDER. ROAD TRAFFIC RESUMED THROUGH
THE BORDER TOWN OF KASUMBALASA ON MAY 26
BORG

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